

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01361 240949Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /073 W
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R 240905Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7776
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1361

DEPT PASS OAU ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAU
SUBJ: UPCOMING OAU ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL ELECTIONS

REF: A) LOME 934 (NOTAL); B) ADDIS ABABA 0366 (NOTAL);
C) ADDIS ABABA 1107 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF, WHO WAS AT OAU ON ANOTHER MATTER, ASKED WELL-INFORMED OAU OFFICIAL ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR UPCOMING ADMIN SEC GEN ELECTIONS. OFFICIAL IDENTIFIED TOGOLESE FONMIN KODJO AS MEMBER OF ASST SEC GEN KAMANDA WA KAMANDA FACTION, AND STATED THAT KODJO HAD LOBBIED EXTENSIVELY ON OWN BEHALF AT TRIPOLI. OFFICIAL BELIEVED THAT KAMANDA HAS COME TO REALIZE HE HIMSELF COULD NOT WIN SEC GEN POST BECAUSE OF PAST INDISCRETIONS AND FREQUENT ABSENCES FROM SECRETARIAT.
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(KAMANDA ALLEGEDLY RELEASED TO PRESS EMBARRASSING AND CONFIDENTIAL INTERNAL OAU DOCUMENT CONCERNING OAU INVOLVEMENT WITH LONRHO FIRM.) THEREFORE, KAMANDA HAS DECIDED TO ENCOURAGE CANDIDACY OF HIS FRIEND KODJO. GIVEN ANIMOSITY BETWEEN CURRENT SEC GEN ETEKI AND KAMANDA, IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE ETEKI WAS SOURCE OF ARTICLE IN JEUNE AFRIQUE UNFAVORABLE TO KODJO.

2. OAU OFFICIAL DISCOUNTED TOTALLY ANY POSSIBILITY OF MOVING OAU SECRETARIAT FROM ADDIS ABABA, DESPITE CAMPAIGN BEING CARRIED OUT ON TOGO'S BEHALF BY NIGERIA AND SUDAN. PROBLEM IS NOT ONE OF SECURITY OF OAU OFFICIALS IN REVOLUTIONARY ETHIOPIA NOR OF LIVING CONDITIONS, BUT RATHER ONE OF INTERNAL OAU POLITICS. FOR THIS REASON, OFFICIAL DID NOT BELIEVE SUFFICIENT CAUSE COULD BE DEMONSTRATED FOR SECRETARIAT'S REMOVAL.

3. AS PER REFTEL C, OFFICIAL THOUGHT CANDIDACY OF ZAMBIAN FONMIN SITEKE MWALE WAS GROWING STRONGER AND THAT HE WILL BE SERIOUS CONTENDER FOR SECGEN POSITION. OFFICIAL MADE STRONG CASE FOR MWALE BASED ON FACTS THAT HE IS FROM ANGLO-PHONE COUNTRY WHICH ALSO CONSIDERED AN EAST AFRICAN COUNTRY, THAT ZAMBIA IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN RHODESIAN/ZIMBABWE PROBLEM WHICH IS SEIZING OAU AND WORLD ATTENTION, AND THAT MWALE IS "GOOD ADVERTISEMENT FOR OAU" AS RELATIVELY YOUNG AND ARTICULATE SPOKESMAN WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN OAU. (MWALE WAS PAST ASST SECGEN FOR ADMIN AFFAIRS, BUT SERVED WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR DISTINCTION.) OFFICIAL THOUGHT THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE HOTLY CONTESTED, BUT WOULD NOT PREDICT WHO MIGHT EMERGE AS SECGEN.
MATHERON

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